

**PPL24 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET**  
**January 28, 2014**

**Project Name:**

Southwest Cameron Creole Marsh Creation

**Project Location:**

Region 4, Calcasieu-Sabine Basin, Cameron Creole Watershed, Cameron Parish, South of Calcasieu Lake, partially within Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge.

**Problem:**

The primary cause of marsh loss in this unit has been saltwater intrusion from the Calcasieu River Ship Channel and direct marsh loss due to hurricanes. Early losses and arguably the largest losses were after 1951 (ship channel) and 1957 (Hurricane Audrey). More recently Hurricanes Rita (2005) and Ike (2008) caused large amount of marsh loss. USGS has calculated a nearby project's 1998-2009 landloss at 1.66% per year. Marsh creation projects should be a priority in these areas that have experienced mechanical scraping of the marsh during recent hurricane events while water depths are relatively shallow.

**Goals :**

Create marsh in shallow open water areas that have recently been damaged by Hurricanes Rita and Ike.

*Specific goals:* 1) Create 469 acres and nourish 73 acres of emergent brackish marsh.

**Proposed Solution:**

This project would propose to create/nourish approximately 542 acres of emergent marsh by hydraulically dredging material from the Gulf of Mexico and placing that material in in shallow open water areas both within the Cameron Prairie NWR and private lands just south of that refuge. Dredge material would be placed in open water areas to a target height of +1.3 NAVD 88. All constructed containment dikes would be sufficiently gapped or degraded no later than 3 years post construction to allow for fisheries access.

**Preliminary Project Benefits:**

*1) What is the total acreage benefited both directly and indirectly?*

This total project area is 542 ac.

*2) How many acres of wetlands will be protected/created over the project life?*

Approximately 407 ac of brackish marsh will be protected/created over the project life.

*3) What is the anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life (<25%, 25-49%, 50-74%, and >75%)?*

The anticipated land loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits will be 50-74% over the projects life.

*4) Do any project features maintain or restore structural components of the coastal ecosystem such as barrier islands, natural or artificial levee ridges, beach and lake rims, cheniers, etc?*

The project will help protect the cheniere and ridges located south of the project area.

*5) What is the net impact of the project on critical and non-critical infrastructure?*

None

*6) To what extent does the project provide a synergistic effect with other approved and/or constructed restoration projects?*

This project would work synergistically with two projects (Maddison Bay Marsh Creation and Island Road Marsh Creation project) to tie together three ridges (Terrebonne Ridge, Isle St. Charles, and Point aux Cheine Ridge). This would also work with the TE-83 project that will be located just south of the project area.

**Identification of Potential Issues:**

There would most likely be some pipeline issues and numerous oyster leases within the project area.

**Preliminary Construction Costs:**

The estimated construction cost including 25% contingency is estimated between \$23 M.

**Preparer(s) of Fact Sheet:**

Robert Dubois, USFWS, (337) 291-3127, Robert\_Dubois@fws.gov